

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 29, 2004, in which claims 15-26 were withdrawn from consideration, claims 1-14 were allowed, and claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mlaker.

Claims 15-26 are canceled without prejudice. In view of the cancellation, the rejection to the claims should be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mlaker U.S. Patent No. 5,746,286. The Examiner asserts that Mlaker discloses a material transport system comprising a truck and a boom system attached to the truck, the boom system including a first and second boom section, the second boom section being substantially formed from composite material, and a rotary actuator that allows the boom section to rotate relative to the boom section.

Claim 27 has been amended to include a concrete piping system supported by the boom sections and a concrete pump attached to the concrete piping system. Amended claim 27 is now in a form similar to allowed claims 1 and 8. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 27 be withdrawn.

Claims 28-33 have been added to the pending application as dependent claims. New claims 28, 30, and 32 define at least one of the boom sections as being composed of a first fiber reinforced thermoset composite material layer including glass fibers in a vinyl ester matrix, a second fiber reinforced thermoset composite material layer disposed over the first composite material layer, the second composite layer including carbon fibers in an epoxy matrix, an aluminum flex core layer disposed over the second composite material layer, a third fiber reinforced thermoset composite material layer disposed over the aluminum flex core layer, the third composite material layer including aramid fibers in a vinyl ester matrix, and a fourth fiber reinforced thermoset composite material layer disposed over the third composite material layer, the fourth composite material layer comprising glass fibers in a vinyl ester matrix. New claims 29, 31, and 33 include a stiffening layer formed of a fiber-reinforced composite material, including a plurality of fibers and a matrix material,

attached to a surface of at least one metal boom section. It is respectfully requested that claims 28-33 be allowed.

Figure 13 has been replaced to add a missing label in the original submission. The radiused rectangular shape 76 of the boom section 22 was not labeled in the drawing. The Examiner may reference line 22 of page 23 in the specification to see that the radiused rectangular shape 76 of the boom section 22 was disclosed in the description of Figure 13.

In view of the foregoing, pending claim 27 and new claims 28-33 are in condition for allowance along with previously allowed claims 1-14. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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